

**Business Area # 2:**  
**MIT/Kendall Square/Lower  
 Broadway**

**Boundaries:** bordered by Main Street, Broadway, Portland Street, the B&A Railroad, Audrey Street.

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: Offices, shops, restaurants in Kendall Square, #1-#5 Cambridge Center, Offices and shops on Broadway between #1 and #200, and Tech Square



*Kendall Square*

The Kendall Square business district is sustained by the many technology-driven businesses that it houses. This fact makes it vulnerable to **larcenies from buildings**. At the peak of the City's high-tech boom, businesses in this area reported an average of 250 incidents per year. Corporate awareness and responsiveness has sent this crime into a continuous downward spiral since the mid-1990s. Only twenty-four incidents have been reported in the first half of 2003. Thefts of unattended laptops and wallets from area office buildings continue to drive the total. This year, the total was further fueled by five larcenies reported at the Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club on First Street. The arrest of a Melrose man in late May may have ended this pattern. • All five of the **larcenies from persons** reported in the first six months of 2003 occurred in cafes and restaurants around Cambridge Center. There are far fewer of these types of thefts in this area than in other commercial districts of the City. • **Commercial burglaries** increased by three incidents in the second quarter of 2003. In late March, an unknown suspect broke into two offices located in the same building on Mass. Ave. Nothing was taken in either break, but one of the offices was ransacked. The remaining breaks occurred in the same building in Kendall Square. In three of the four breaks at this location, the breaks were classified as inside jobs in which entry was gained by individuals in possession of access cards. Laptops were targeted. • Three of the four **commercial robberies** have been bank robberies. A Main Street bank was hit twice during the first quarter. This increase in bank robberies in the Kendall Square business district is consistent with a similar increase citywide and throughout the greater Boston metro area. The robberies reported during the first half of 2003 have occurred early in the morning and have been committed by suspects passing notes to tellers, demanding money. • Historically, very few **shoplifting** incidents have been reported in the Kendall Square business district. This year, the handful of incidents normally reported has been reduced to zero. • No **flim flams** or incidents of **counterfeiting** were reported in the first six months of 2003 in the Kendall Square business district. Incidents of **fraud** consisted of individuals forging checks or using credit/debit cards belonging to someone else.

CRIME	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2003	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	26	24	-8%
Larceny from Person	9	5	-44%
Commercial Burglary	3	6	+100%
Commercial Robbery	1	4	*Inc.
Shoplifting	0	0	N.C.
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	5	7	+40%

\*Note: percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to lead to a statistically misleading percentage.